

RF:sj 5/23/05 375.1032PAT

PATENT

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An attachment plate ~~42~~ of a flexible, bendable material comprising: adapted for attachment to fabric, cables, flower stalks or similar items, ~~the attachment plate having~~ two tongue shaped portions including a first tongue ~~4, 20~~ and a second tongue, ~~6, 21~~ formed by a perforation in the plate so that a foot portion ~~8, 9~~ of the first tongue and a foot portion of the second tongue each tongue shaped portion is held to the plate while each respective tongue shaped portion, extending from the foot portion to an outer free end ~~10, 11, 22, 23~~ of each tongue shaped portion, respectively, is outwardly bendable from the plate and the outer free ends of the first tongue and the second tongue shaped portions are immediately adjacent to one another at a slit ~~12, 24~~ formed by a perforation, characterized therein that the outer free end ~~10, 11, 22, 23~~ of each respective tongue shaped portion ~~4, 20; 6, 21~~ has having at least one narrowing portion ~~14, 14'; 15, 15'~~ so that each respective narrowing portion is adapted to at least partially overlap a the other narrowing portion at the slits ~~12, 24~~, the first tongue facing the second tongue so that the foot portion of the first tongue is disposed at one end of the plate and the foot portion of the second tongue is disposed at an opposite end of the attachment plate, the outer free end of the first tongue having a first cavity defined therein the outer free end of the second tongue having a second cavity defined therein,

RF:aj 5/23/05 975.1032PAT

PATENT

the outer free end of the second tongue extending into the first cavity,

the outer free end of the first tongue extending into the second cavity,

the first tongue having first side slits defined therein and extending along each side of the first tongue from the foot portion of the first tongue to the outer free end at the slit of the first tongue;

the second tongue having second side slits defined therein and extending along each side of the second tongue from the foot portion of the second tongue to the outer free end at the slit of the second tongue, and

the first side slits of the first tongue being parallel to and aligned with the second side slits of the second tongue.

2. (Currently amended) The attachment plate according to ~~patent~~ claim 1 ~~characterized therein that wherein~~ the outer free end ~~(10, 11)~~ of each respective tongue shaped portion ~~4,~~ ~~6~~ has at least two narrowing portions ~~(14, 14', 15, 15')~~.

3. (Currently amended) The attachment plate according to ~~patent~~ claim 1 ~~characterized therein that wherein the slit is immediately adjacent to one another the tongue shaped portions (4, 6) form a wave shaped slit along the formed slit (12).~~

RF:sj 5/23/05 375.1032PAT

PATENT

4. (Currently amended) The attachment plate according to ~~patent~~ claim 1 wherein characterized therein that the outer free end (22, 23) of each respective tongue shaped portion (20, 21) has a continuously narrowing portion so that the formed the slit (24) has a substantially straight, diagonal extension (D).

5. (Currently amended) An attachment plate of a bendable material, comprising:  
a first tongue shaped portion (4, 20) and a second tongue shaped portion (6, 21) formed by a weakened segment in the attachment plate so that a first foot portion (8) of the first tongue shaped portion and a second foot portion (9) of the second tongue shaped portion are being held to the attachment plate; the first tongue portion extending from the first foot portion to a first outer free end (10, 22); the second tongue portion extending for from the second foot portion to a second outer free end (11, 23); the attachment plate is bendable relative to the first and second tongues portions; the first outer free end being adjacent to the second free end at a slit (12, 24) formed by the weakened segment, the first tongue facing the second tongue so that the first foot portion is disposed at one end of the plate and the second foot portion is disposed at an opposite end of the plate, the outer free end of the first tongue having a first cavity defined therein the outer free end of the second tongue having a second cavity defined therein, the outer free end of the second tongue extending into the first

RF:ej 5/23/05 375.1032PAT

PATENT

cavity,  
the outer free end of the first tongue extending into the second  
cavity,  
the first tongue having first side slits defined therein and  
extending along each side of the first tongue from the first foot  
portion to the outer free end of the first tongue;  
the second tongue having second side slits defined therein and  
extending along each side of the second tongue from the second  
foot portion to the outer free end of the second tongue, and  
the first side slits of the first tongue being parallel to and  
aligned with the second side slits of the second tongue.

6. (Currently amended) The attachment plate according to claim 5 wherein the first protruding portion the outer free end of the first tongue has a first narrowing outer end and the second protruding portion the outer free end of the second tongue has a second narrowing outer end.

7. (Currently amended) The attachment plate according to claim 6 wherein the first narrowing outer end extends into a first the second cavity of the second outer end of the second tongue portion.

8. (Currently amended) The attachment plate according to claim 6 wherein the outer free end of the first tongue overlaps the outer free end of the second tongue second protruding portion overlaps the first protruding portion.

9. (Original) The attachment plate according to claim 5 wherein the first tongue portion extends in a first direction and the second tongue portion extends in a second direction

## PATENT

RF:sj 5/23/05 375.1032PAT

opposite the first direction.

10. (Currently amended) The attachment plate according to claim 5 wherein the first outer free end of the first tongue is separable from the second outer free end of the second tongue when the attachment plate is in a bent position and the first outer end being immediately adjacent to the second outer end when the attachment plate is in a straight relaxed position.

11. (Currently amended) The attachment plate according to claim 1 5 wherein the first outer free end of the first tongue has a first protruding portion and the second outer free end of the second tongue has a second protruding portion terminating at the slit aligned with the first protruding portion at the slit.